

1960

Sec 2 us

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700030027-6

Circ.: e. 124,354

S. 80,678

Front Page
Edit Page
Other Page

Date:

X- Pres 2 J. H. ROBINSON
X- Ag 2
X- Socio 1-90 (CRA)

Some Balk Peace Unit

Disagree on JFK's Corps Development

Washington —(UPI)— President-elect John F. Kennedy's campaign plan to send young men overseas to work in underdeveloped countries ran into some opposition Wednesday over how the proposed "peace corps" should be formed and how big it should be.

Sen. McGee (D-Wyo), now on an African tour, sent word he would like to see a million youths mobilized for assignment overseas.

Hershey Backs Plan

Gen. Lewis H. Hershey, director of the selective service system responsible for drafting millions of American youths, endorsed the plan. He said he saw no conflict between the peace corps idea and manpower needs of the draft.

But Clarence Thurber, of the Ford foundation urged caution, suggesting only a "modest start." He said even the assignment of 27 students to a project in India once raised questions.

Meet in Washington

The comments came in discussions at an unofficial meeting of educators, government officials and spokesman for private organizations which met to study ways of implementing Kennedy's proposal.

The majority view as the two-day session drew to a close appeared to be that the program should start small, with a few projects and carefully chosen people to run them, designed to help needy people help themselves, and even then only on invitation.

Innocence

Frank Wallick, public relations director of the Allied Industrial Workers of America (AFL-CIO) told the group, "I came here to see how the job can be done, not to hear why it can't." He said to start the program with less than 5,000 young people would be a waste of time.

Rev. James Robinson, speaking for a volunteer group called Cross Roads Africa, said even small scale, non-governmental United States efforts overseas often are viewed with suspicion.

"They say we are too innocent looking to be innocent," he said. "They want to know just what branch of the CIA (central intelligence agency) we represent."

Others Agree

Spokesmen for other volunteer service groups with work teams around the world tended to agree with Robinson.

Kennedy's idea, advanced in the presidential campaign, was that bright young Americans, trained in languages, skills and customs they will need to know, could volunteer for peace corps duty instead of military service. He suggested they could give technical aid of all kinds.